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(71) Applicant

James Winstanley,

112 Leigh Road, Hindley Green, Wigan, Lancashire

(72) Inventor

James Winstanley

(74) Agent and/or Address for Service

Wilson Gunn Ellis & Co,

41-51 Royal Exchange, Cross Street, Manchester
M2 7BD

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(58) Field of search

B7J

(54) Illuminated rear view mirror

(57) A vehicle rear view mirror comprises a casing (2), a reflective panel (1) disposed in the casing (2) arranged to face rearwardly of the vehicle, and one or more lamps (5, 6) also disposed in the casing. The lamps may comprise one or more amber indicator and red brake and rear lamps. The amber lamp is preferably located above the red lamp. A vent (11) with inlet (12) and outlet (13) may be provided to demist the panel (1). The mirror may be detachable for use as a portable lamp.

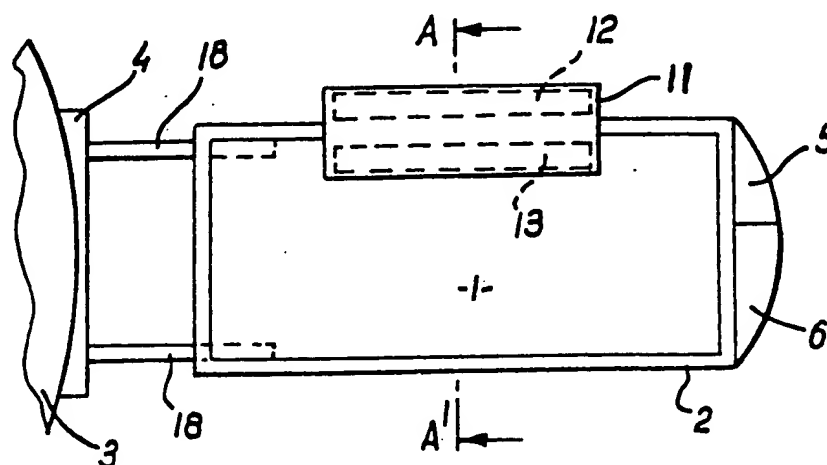


FIG. 1

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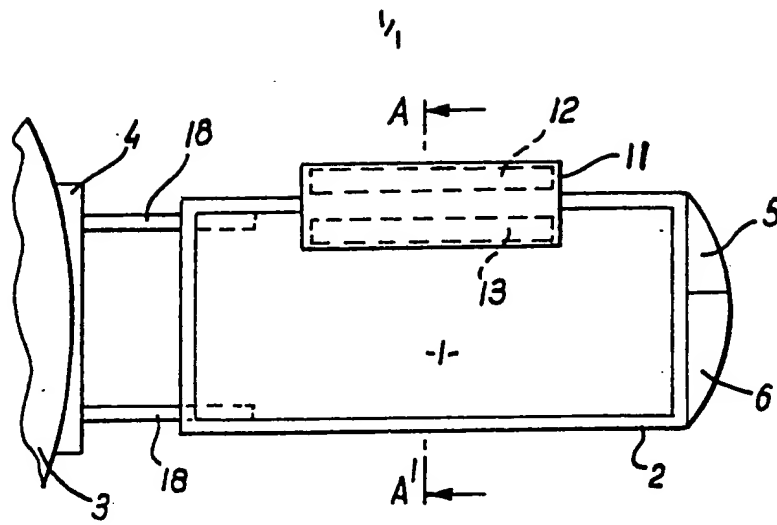


FIG. 1

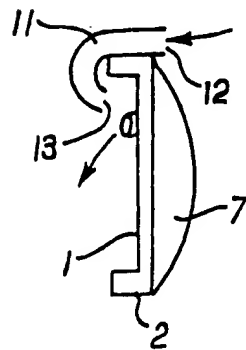


FIG. 2

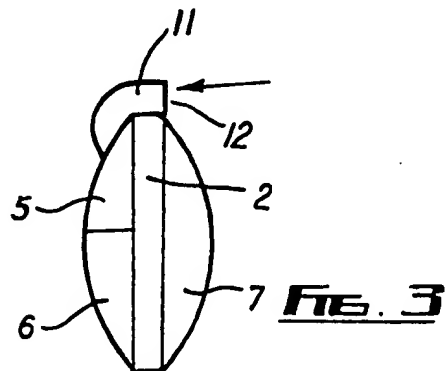


FIG. 3

SPECIFICATION

Illuminated rear view mirror

5 This invention relates to a rear view mirror for an automobile or other vehicle particularly but not exclusively to a mirror adapted to be secured to a door or other body panel adjacent the driver's side window.

10 According to this invention a vehicle rear view mirror comprises a casing, a reflective panel disposed in the casing and arranged to face rearwardly of the vehicle in use of the mirror and one or more lamps also disposed
15 in the casing.

The lamps may comprise one or more of rearwardly facing amber indicator and red brake and rear lamps. The amber lamp is preferably located above the red lamp. The
20 lamps are preferably located in or on the extremity of the casing which is arranged in use at the furthest distance from the vehicle. The bulbs may be located under the lamp covers close to the mirror surface so that
25 the heat dissipated by the bulbs heats the mirror preventing misting. This serves to provide the clearest possible indication of the full width of the vehicle to a person behind the latter. The said one or more lamps alternatively or in addition may comprise a white or
30 naturally coloured lamp arranged to face forwardly of the mirror casing. This lamp may serve as a conventional side light. Alternatively the rear view mirror may be adapted to
35 be detached from the vehicle door or body panel for use as a portable lamp, for example when making emergency repairs in the engine compartment. An electric cable may be retractably stored in the casing to maintain the
40 power supply to the lamp after detachment from the vehicle.

The mirror may also include a vent arranged to direct a flow of air onto the reflective panel as the vehicle moves forwardly.

45 The vent may comprise an inlet open forwardly of the casing and an outlet adjacent or facing the surface of the panel.

The vent serves to demist the reflective panel as the vehicle moves. The vent may
50 further serve to keep the panel free from moisture in wet conditions. Two or more vents may be provided if convenient.

The casing may be adapted to be secured in use to a door or other body panel of a
55 vehicle by means of one or more extensible supports. The supports may facilitate increasing the distance of the reflective panel from the vehicle so that a driver's rearward vision is not obstructed by a wide trailer, caravan or
60 other load.

The supports may be telescopically extensible or may be arranged to retract into the casing.

The invention is further described by means of examples with reference to Figures 1 to 3 of

the accompanying drawings, of which:—

Figure 1 is a rear view of a mirror in accordance with the invention;

Figure 2 is a section on A-A of Fig. 1; and

70 *Figure 3* is an end elevation of the mirror.

The Figures show a rear view mirror in accordance with the invention, comprising a reflective panel 1, disposed in a casing 2. The casing is secured to a body panel 3 of a
75 vehicle by means of a support 4. Two lamps are located beneath coloured plastics covers located in the extremity of the mirror. An upper cover 5 is coloured amber and a lower cover 6 is coloured red. The covers are arranged so that the lamps may only be seen
80 from the rear or side of the vehicle. A transparent or white cover 7 illuminated by a third lamp, is arranged to be visible only from the front or side of the vehicle. The amber lamp is
85 connected to the indicator or hazard circuit of the vehicle and the red lamp is connected to the rear and brake light circuits.

The casing 2 is detachable from the support 4 and is provided with an electric cable (not shown) stored within the casing. The
90 white lamp 7 may thereby serve to illuminate the interior of the engine compartment, for example in the event of a breakdown.

A vent 11 located on the upper portion of the casing, comprises an inlet 12 and outlet 13 the latter being located adjacent and facing the panel 8. Air is drawn through the vent in the direction shown by the arrows during forward movement of a vehicle fitted
100 with the mirror. The flow of air serves to demist the panel 8 and prevents accumulation of rain drops, dirt or other deposits.

A pair of extensible supports 18 slidably mounted in the casing 15, allow the position of the casing to be adjusted relative to the vehicle. This facilitates use of the mirror when towing a wide trailer or caravan. The casing may be lockable to prevent unwanted sliding upon the supports 18. Telescopically extensible supports may be alternatively provided.
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CLAIMS

1. A vehicle rear view mirror comprising a casing, a reflective panel disposed in the casing and arranged to face rearwardly of the vehicle in use of the mirror, and one or more lamps also disposed in the casing.
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2. A mirror as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lamps are located in or on the extremity of the casing which is arranged in use at the furthest distance from the vehicle.
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3. A mirror as claimed in claim 1 or 2, adapted to be detached from the vehicle for use as a portable lamp.

125 4. A mirror as claimed in any preceding claim, including a vent arranged to direct a flow of air onto the reflective panel as the vehicle moves forwardly.

5. A mirror as claimed in claim 4, wherein the vent comprises an inlet open forwardly of
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the casing and an outlet adjacent or facing the reflective panel.

6. A mirror as claimed in any preceding claim, adapted to be secured in use to a vehicle by means of one or more extensible supports.

7. A mirror substantially as hereinb for described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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